



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

August 2018



Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, lower-middle income, food deficit country. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous food security challenges during the winter period. The country is the poorest in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with 47 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.33 a day and 17 percent subsisting on less than USD 0.85 a day.

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993. Moving away from crisis assistance, WFP is focusing its strategy on supporting national social protection and safety nets; nutrition; and resilience building and disaster risk reduction.

WFP is currently operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) since January, and is in the process of preparing the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which is expected to be approved by mid-2019.



Population: **8.8 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **129 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **27% of children between 6-59 months**

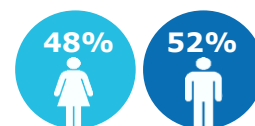
In Numbers

7.091 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$10,859 cash based transfers made

US\$ 4 m September 2018 - February 2019 (6 months NFR)

4,949 people assisted in August 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP developed the concept note of the five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024, which will support Tajikistan's efforts to achieve Zero Hunger, following the consultation meetings held in July with government and development stakeholders to introduce the findings from the Zero Hunger Strategic Review and Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis. The concept note will serve as the basis for bilateral discussions and for a high-level second consultation meeting planned in mid-October.
- From 30 July to 10 August, a technical mission with specialists from WFP headquarters and Regional Bureau visited Tajikistan to support the customization and rollout of SCOPE, WFP digital platform to register and manage entitlements of targeted beneficiaries. WFP has planned to use SCOPE in its nutrition and food-assistance-for-assets programmes.
- WFP and its technical partner Social and Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI) monitored the renovation works of school canteens that have been carried out during the school summer break. The works are part of the capacity-strengthening component of the School Meals Programme, which will improve infrastructures of 47 schools of the Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley. The renovation is anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2018.
- At the end of August, WFP dispatched food commodities to the 2,000 primary schools supported by the school meals programme to be ready for the beginning of the school year in September. All schools confirmed receipt of food commodities on time.
- An expert has initiated a gender analysis in the context of food security and nutrition that will inform the development of the next Country Strategic Plan. Findings will be available in October.

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**Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan
(1 January 2018 – 30 June 2019)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28.3 m	18.5 m*	4 m

* Total contribution confirmed against TJ01.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Primary school children in targeted districts and people with special health needs meet their basic food requirements by 2021.

Focus area: School Meals

Activities:

- Implement the nutrition-sensitive school meals programme in food insecure areas and test novel approaches like home-grown school feeding. Meanwhile national authorities' capacity will be strengthened to take over and expand the current WFP-supported school meals programme into a sustainable, country-owned programme with educational, social protection and nutritional objectives.
- Provide food assistance to TB patients registered under the DOTS programme and their families in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to build capacity

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Children, pregnant and lactating women and girls in districts with high malnutrition rates have improved nutritional status in line with national standards by 2019.

Focus area: Nutrition

Activities:

- Treat moderate acute malnutrition for children 6-59 months in pilot districts while building Government capacity to address nutrition gaps.
- Implement Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) activities related to nutrition

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable communities in areas exposed to recurrent shocks increase their resilience by 2019.

Focus area: Food for Assets

Activities:

- Asset creation and livelihood activities to support resilience to natural and man-made shocks and stressors. (in kind, cash-based transfer)
- Assessment, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response activities to improve capacity and readiness of institutions and civil society.

Monitoring

- During July 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 98 project sites. While 6 planned visits had to be cancelled due to road rehabilitation works, the overall number of visits conducted exceed the plans as a number of visits not initially planned were conducted to inspect the rehabilitation works in schools.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of August. In all project areas, WFP has provided the relevant WFP office phone numbers to its beneficiaries, as part of the feedback mechanism in place.

Challenges

- Due to funding constraints since 2012, WFP was forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Meals Programme. Every child receives only 61 percent of the planned entitlement, which is 120 g/day of mixed commodities instead of 198 g/day. This has resulted in a low macro and micro-nutrient intake provided to schoolchildren. In view of continued forecasted shortfall, WFP has planned to continue to distribute the reduced ration at the beginning of the 2018/19 school year.
- WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which is sufficient to support 1,500 people over a period of two months. WFP urgently requires more funding to better prepare for a potentially larger emergency response.

Resourcing

- WFP Tajikistan requires an additional USD 4 million to implement its planned activities until February 2019. Specifically, USD 1.3 million is urgently required for 2018, to cover needs until end of the year, when the new Russian contribution allocated for 2019 will be available for utilization. The main priority for funding remains the School Meals Programme, the largest WFP activity in the country. Resources are required to ensure the continuation of the assistance to 395,000 people including children without interruption and with full ration entitlements. The other priority is the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) Resilience programmes implemented in areas with high level of food insecurity.

Success Stories

- The implementation of cash-based transfers as assistance modality in assets creating activities is running smoothly, contributing to extend financial inclusion through the rural population.

Donors

Russian Federation, Private Donors (the Earth Group, Japan Association for WFP); USA; UN Peacebuilding Fund, Green Climate Fund

Photo: WFP project participants received their bank cards for the first cash distribution / @WFP Tajikistan